

Austin Family Award Received

By Terrill Collier

At Collier Arbor Care, we work hard to emphasize the "family" in this second generation family business. For that reason, we're especially proud to have received one of the 2006 *Excellence in Family Business* awards from the Oregon State University (OSU) Austin Family Business Program.

The entire Collier family is involved in Collier Arbor Care, as they have been since my dad, Ray Collier, started the business in 1937. In 1981, I took over from Ray as president. Today, my wife

Photo: Thuy Tran



Terrill, Quentin, Janet, Brandon, and Logan Collier

Janet is vice president. Our two oldest sons Brandon, 18, and Logan, 17, have been working on crews or in the office during summers for several years. Even our youngest, Quentin, 8, has gotten involved accompanying me on outings such as the Friends of Trees planting we sponsored earlier this year.

Dad started Collier Arbor Care with a third grade education. Through continuous and rigorous self education (he continuously queried horticultural experts), he became the go-to expert on ornamental tree and shrub problems. To some extent this award is a tribute to his commitment to honesty and hard work which grew the business and inspired me to get a degree in entomology pest management from OSU. Ray Collier passed away last year at the age of 96. I wish he could have seen this award he would have been quite proud.

Our company will be honored at the Austin Family Business Award banquet at the Oregon Zoo on November 16.

We're Here to Help

Collier Arbor Care is here to assist you with your tree, shrub and lawn care needs. If you would like more information on any of our services listed below, please give us a call or visit our website for valuable plant information.

Plant Health Care Programs
Targeted Insect & Disease Treatments
Pruning Trees & Shrubs
Tree Removal & Stump Grinding
Organic-based Lawn Care

Tree & Shrub Fertilization
Soil Treatments
Hazard Tree Analysis
Landscape Weed Control
Consulting & Diagnosis

503-722-7267 (503-72ARBOR)
www.collierarbor.com

Garden Calendar

See our website at www.collierarbor.com for a 12 month calendar!

October

- Recycle disease-free plant material and kitchen vegetable scraps into compost.
- Good time to plant new trees and shrubs or transplant existing ones.
- Apply preventative weed control in landscape beds, pull or treat existing weeds.*
- Take care of soil drainage needs of lawns and landscape needs before rain begins.
- Treat stone fruit trees to prevent various fungus and bacterial diseases.*
- Clean and oil tools and equipment before storing for winter.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs like crocus, daffodils and tulips.

November

- Apply lime to lawns.*
- Treat roots of trees and shrubs with beneficial mycorrhizae fungus to increase rooting, nutrient uptake, and help protect from certain root diseases.*
- Plan erosion control; use mulches, fir boughs, etc., to prevent compaction from rain and from soil washing.
- Rake and compost leaves that are free of diseases or insects.
- Provide winter protection to built-in sprinkler systems; drain the system, insulate the valve mechanisms.
- Reduce fertilizer applications to houseplants.
- Prepare lawnmower, other garden equipment for winter storage. Drain and store hoses carefully to avoid damage from freezing.

December

- Cut holly for holiday decorations.
- Make holiday decorations from trees and shrubs in the yard.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow breakage.
- Subsurface fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs to enhance spring growth and health.*

January

- Plant bare-root deciduous fruit and shade trees.
- Have a soil test performed on your garden, lawn or landscape soil. If soil ph is below 5.5 (very acidic) then you need to add large amounts of lime to raise the ph to an optimum 6.0 to 6.5.*
- Treat with dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper for general disease control of fruit trees, peaches for leaf curl and roses.*
- Prune fruit trees. Thin suckers, remove deadwood and increase light penetration.*
- Plan now for garden improvements. Order seeds for planting vegetables and flowers.

* Services performed by Collier Arbor Care

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THE Arbor Advisor

Your Prescription for a Healthy Landscape

FALL 2006

In this issue...

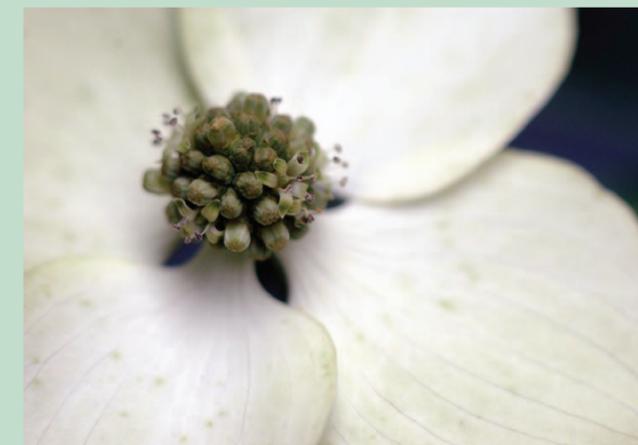
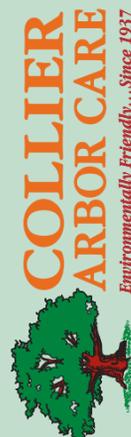


Photo: Luke Fedriner

The inconspicuous flower of the *Cornus Kousa Dogwood*

-  To Mulch or Not To Mulch
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-  Girdling Roots
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11814 S.E. Jennifer Street
Clackamas, OR 97015

Portland 503-722-7267
(503-72ARBOR)
Vancouver (360) 693-6056

Valuable information at
www.collierarbor.com
info@collierarbor.com

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Vancouver (360) 693-6056

info@collierarbor.com • www.collierarbor.com

Girdling Roots

A Common Cause of Tree Decline

A girdling root is defined as a root that grows around the trunk of the tree thus tending to strangle the tree. Girdling roots act like an ever tightening tourniquet, restricting and cutting off the flow of water and nutrients. They are a common problem in the decline and death of ornamental trees planted in the landscape. Although the symptoms of girdling roots typically show up 15 to 30 years after the tree is planted, the problem generally starts when the tree is young. Research has shown that trees planted with their root flare too deep develop girdling roots. The root flare is the area at the base of the trunk that swells out to become a buttress for roots entering the soil. It is also known as the root collar. It is interesting to note that natural trees in the forest do not have girdling root problems.

The most common tree species with girdling root problems are Norway and red maples, as well as pines. We have diagnosed many dying trees over the years with girdling roots and it is one of our most common causes of tree decline and death.



(Left) A girdling root is defined as a root that grows around the trunk of the tree — thus tending to strangle the tree.

(Above) This Norway maple has been planted too deep and is susceptible to developing a girdling root.

root and balled and burlap trees; remove or straighten encircling roots in a radial form. If the root collar flare is buried remove excess soil, then plant so the root flare is slightly exposed above ground. Consider rejecting trees if encircling roots are too severe or if the root flare is buried too deep.

Treatment of Girdling Roots

The younger the trees the more chance of success you can expect with removal of girdling roots. As the tree gets larger and the encircling roots more severe, the removal of the roots must be balanced with the injury of the root removal. Many situations are so hopeless that it may be just a matter of time before the tree dies.

To assess for the presence of girdling roots, either hand dig or use a soil excavation tool called an air spade. Girdling roots can be removed with wood gouges, saws or pruners. If more than one half of the circumference is severely compressed treatment is not recommended and removal should be considered.

Signs and Symptoms of Girdling Roots

- No visible root flare at soil surface. The trunk descends straight into the soil with no flare.
- Trunk may be flattened on one side.
- Excavation of soil at trunk base may reveal the girdling roots.
- Leaves and annual growth are smaller than normal. Leaves may be scorched.
- Early fall color and leaf drop.
- Dieback in the crown of the tree. Sparse amount of foliage.

Prevention

Prevention begins at planting. Before planting, examine root system and remove encircling roots. For containerized trees, bare

“To Mulch or Not To Mulch?”

To mulch or not to mulch — that’s an often asked question. For knowledgeable gardeners mulch is recognized as one of the most important cultural practices you can do for your plants. Maintaining your landscape plants in a healthy growing condition is important for your property value as well as the aesthetic benefit. A mulched landscape not only looks good, but also provides a wonderful environment for root growth.

Benefits of Mulch

- Helps maintain soil moisture. Evaporation is reduced, and the need for watering can be minimized.
- Helps control weeds. A 2- to 4-inch layer of mulch will reduce the germination and growth of weeds.
- Mulch serves as nature’s insulating blanket. Mulch keeps soils warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.
- Many types of mulch can improve soil aeration, structure (aggregation of soil particles), and drainage over time.
- Some mulches can improve soil fertility.
- A layer of mulch can inhibit certain plant diseases.
- Mulching around trees helps facilitate maintenance and can reduce the likelihood of damage from “weed whackers” or the dreaded “lawn mower blight.”
- Mulch can give planting beds a uniform, well-cared-for look.



Photos: Lyle Feilmeier



(Above) Avoid the “volcano” effect when mulching. (Left) A doughnut effect around the tree trunk is the desired look when applying mulch.

Application is important. Apply a 2 to 4-inch thick layer of mulch evenly out to the drip line of the tree or plant if possible. Leave a few inches or bare ground around the stem or trunk. Avoid applying mulch “volcanoes” or burying the trunk in mulch as this will cause the lower trunk to decay. The mulch ring should resemble a doughnut not a volcano. Once you have mulched, make sure your irrigation water penetrates and reaches the soil. Any water absorbed by the mulch will help in retaining soil moisture.

What kind of mulch should you use?

There are organic and inorganic kinds. Inorganics include lava rocks, landscape fabrics and river rock. If you choose this route and later decide to remove it or plant into it you will have a challenge. We recommend organics such as shredded bark, bark chips or composted material. Composted mulch is the most desirable and gives the greatest soil improvement benefit. Fresh or “green” wood chips last the longest but can rob nutrients from your soil so apply extra nitrogen with the mulch.

If your tree had a say in the matter its entire root system would be mulched, so mulch wide but not too deep.

Featured Tree: Kousa Dogwood

Cornus kousa

With its attractive foliage and brilliant fall color, it’s no wonder that almost every Northwest garden contains a Dogwood. Spectacular white or pink blossoms and handsome bark make it an all-season tree. However, many dogwood varieties can develop the dreaded anthracnose fungus disease that kills blossoms, blights foliage and causes severe leaf drop due to wet springs. Anthracnose is the major cause for the decline in our Pacific Northwest stands.

While many gardens contain the traditional Pink Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) the true hero is the disease-resistant Kousa Dogwood. Native to Japan and Korea, this dogwood grows slowly to 20 feet in height and width. It has a dense spreading and horizontal growth habit. The smooth gray-brown bark becomes mottled with white blotches, and becomes more ornamental as it ages. It flowers in late June with an extended four to six week flowering period. (**Dogwood Fact:** The flower petals are actually modified leaves called bracts. The four bracts surround the inconspicuous true flowers.) The creamy white, narrow, three-inch long bracts have sharp pointed tips. In late summer, red fruits as large as raspberries appear and hang below the branches. Lustrous medium green leaves turn a scarlet autumn color.

Dogwoods prefer moist, well-drained, acidic soils in partial sun. They need occasional summer irrigation to help prevent leaf scorch. Most Kousa dogwood selections have white flowers, however there is a pink variety called “Satomi”. If a dogwood is a “must have” in your garden, the Kousa is a great small specimen tree with four season appeal.



Photos: Lyle Feilmeier



(Above Left) Dogwood fruit appears in late summer.

(Above Right) Flower petals are actually modified leaves called bracts that surround the true flower.

